

~~SECRET~~ The ULTRA
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CIA: more cloak, less dagger

Before the kick-the-CIA movement gets out of hand, some important distinctions ought to be made. We have made them on several occasions, but they stand repeating.

First, the opposition to the "covert operations" of the CIA is responsible only to the extent that it doesn't become a moonbeam opposition to ALL intelligence activities. The CIA excesses have taken place partly because the agency itself seems unable to make the distinction between gathering and implementing secret information.

Let the gathering flourish, as discreetly as possible, of course. Common sense dictates that the United States have extensive files on political developments within other countries, particularly those who might pose a direct threat. Naivete in such an area could lead to deadly miscalculations. The CIA has erred because it has occasionally assumed that because it had the knowledge, it also had the obligation to operate on that knowledge, sometimes in cases when our national interests were only tangentially involved.

But to emasculate the intelligence operation because of occasional excesses in its use is to dangerously weaken national security. Until men become perfect, a prospect that still appears to be a

few years away, a good intelligence network is vital.

Just how vital was brought home the other day upon reading the latest revelation about British intelligence during World War II. The operations of that masterful operation are only now beginning to be circulated, such is the lingering discretion of the British.

The Ultra Secret, written by Group Capt. F.W. Winterbotham, explains how British agents duplicated the main German coding machine and therefore knew in advance detailed plans of every major German operation in the last two or three years of the war.

There is no reason to suspect the account of exaggeration—other accounts of brilliant British intelligence work leave little doubt that they are the modern masters of the art. And *The Ultra Secret* leads to the suspicion that, without such an extensive and successful operation, Britain and the U.S. might well have lost the war, a possibility too horrible to dwell on.

So, the next time you hear someone saying that the CIA should be dismantled, think about British Intelligence and put out the warning: Don't toss out the brains with the bath water.